

# Spiny Lobster Closed Areas Off Florida Keys

Effective August 27, spiny lobster commercial trap fishing is prohibited in 60 areas in federal waters off the Florida Keys

**For maps and coordinates of closed areas visit:**

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SpinyLobsterClosedAreas.htm>



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The intent of the closed areas is to protect threatened coral species, particularly staghorn and elkhorn corals. In total, 5.9 square miles are closed to trapping.

For more information on spiny lobster management, please visit:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SpinyLobsterAmendment.htm>

The following groups worked together to select areas that would protect the most coral without overly restricting fishing: NOAA Fisheries' managers and scientists, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, fishing associations and state scientists.